AUG 19 1908

Souvenir of Lakehurst, N. J.

History of the Pine Region of New Jersey

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COVE NEAR POINT OF PINES

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THE PINE REGION OF NEW JERSEY has a history of its own—interesting and little known. The same may be said of its natural history and natural scenery, for familiar as are the flora and surface character of the Middle Atlantic States the newcomer to Lakehurst continues to wonder that the unbroken stretches of pine forest, with the hard. white sand of the seashore underfoot, and the balmy atmosphere of much more southern latitude, can exist so centrally located between New York and Philadelphia, and so accessible.

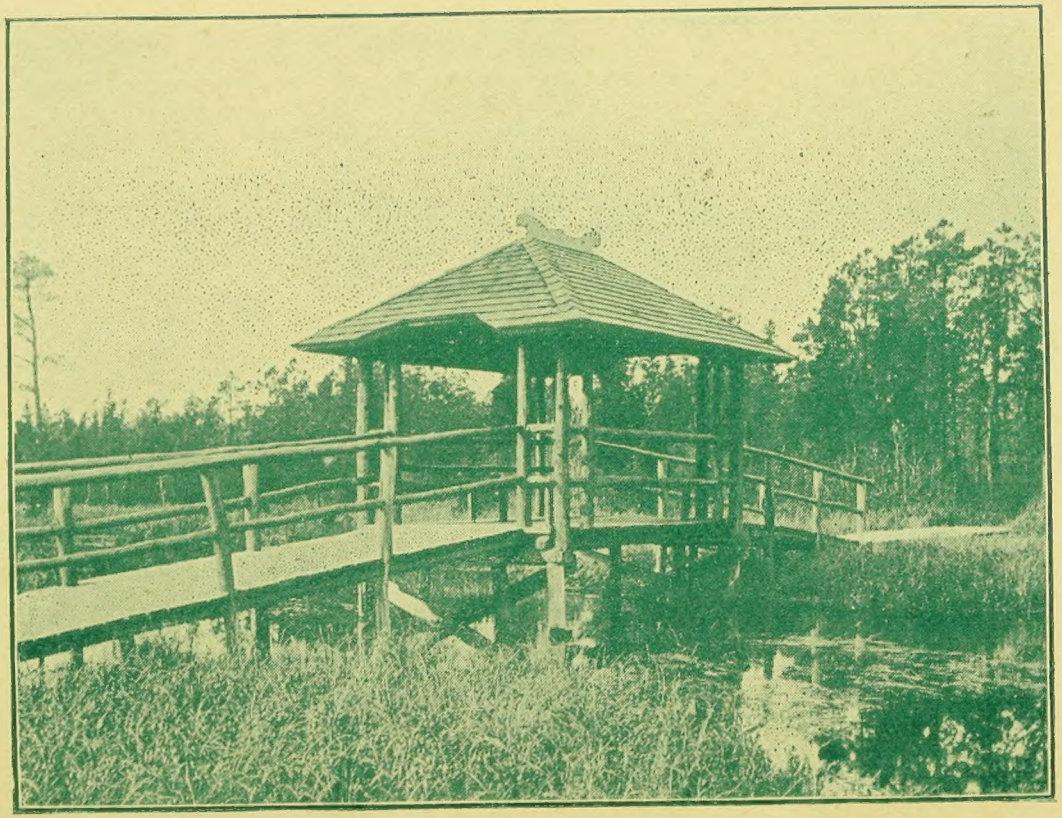
The history of *The Pines* is not an easy one to trace, mainly because the tract though comprising over a quarter of the State, has been but sparsely settled and reference in the archives to events which have transpired there has been necessarily vague and by description, making identification of localities difficult.

The log-book of Henry Hudson's ship the Half Moon gives the first account of a white man's view of our South Jersey coast. In September 1609, on the voyage from Delaware Bay to the Hudson River, land was made near where Egg Harbor now is, after which they came to "a great lake of water, as we could judge

it to be," (Barnegat Bay) "being drowned land ****** which was in length ten leagues. The mouth of the lake" (Barnegat Inlet) "had many shoals, and the sea breaks upon them as it is cast out of the mouth of it." It is from this latter characteristic of the inlet that the name Barnegat was later derived,—Barende Gat, or Breakers Inlet, being first applied descriptively as "The inlet where the breakers are."

In view of the reputation which Barnegat has attained among the lovers of sport as a fishing ground, it is interesting to know that in the earliest times the Indians also utilized the bays and inlets of our coast as a fishing and clamming resort, as their large deposits of shells and bones, together with implements and utensils, still testify. The same attractions seem to have drawn to this region the earliest white settlers, fishing and whaling families that came before 1700 from Long Island. The earliest notices of the South Jersey coast always refer to the excellent facilities for these pursuits, especially about Barnegat. Whales were "numerous along the coast, especially in winter, but they would not compare with those of Greenland." Large quantities of fish were to be caught with nets—one net securing from one to two barrels of fish at a haul, which were salted down by the settlers for their own

VIEW FROM CABIN POINT



HORICON BRIDGE

consumption, the salt being obtained close at hand, as we shall presently see. As early as 1678 license was granted "to take whales and other great fish between Barnegat and the eastern part of the province." At one time the industry was exceedingly profitable and down to 1825 whaling was carried on to some extent.

The industries of *The Pines* in its early history were lumbering, glass manufacture, salt making, charcoal burning and the iron furnaces and mills,—of which only the first two persist until now. Saw mills were on all the streams cutting up the pine, oak, maple and cedar for shipment by vessel to New York and Philadelphia, in company with charcoal from the pits scattered everywhere throughout the forests of pine.

Salt works were dotted along the coast from very early times. The salt was obtained by digging wells in the salt-impregnated meadows and boiling down the strong brine thus secured in large boilers over arched ovens in which fires were built. These works were considered vastly important during the Revolution and were made an object of attack by the British and sturdy defence by the patriots. The Government salt works near Toms River were destroyed April 1, 1778, by the British and those of

Forked River in June 1782. Other noted works were those at Shark River, Manasquan and Barnegat.

For glass manufacture clean white sand and abundant fuel must be found together, and for iron production the ore together with the all important fuel. These combinations existed unmistakably in *The Pines*. About Revolutionary times the iron industry was a very profitable one, "bog iron ore," as the surface deposits of that metal were called, was common in the region and in the numerous furnaces, forges and rolling mills was made up into cooking utensils of all sorts, bars, pipe, cannon balls, cannon and all the other delicacies of that unsettled season. As late as 1830 there were over a dozen furnaces in South Jersey using bog iron ore from the swamps. The discovery of the vast iron ore fields in Pennsylvania in proximity to equally vast deposits of anthracite coal ended New Jersey's Iron Age,—but the glass works to the south and west of us at the present time have made Jersey glass famous and the call continues for Jersey pine.

Since in most of the other states some few descendants still remain of the original Indian proprietors of the soil, inquiry as to why none are to be found in New Jersey opens up an interesting chapter of our State history. It is a pleas-

BLACK'S BRIDGE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ure to record that all historians agree as to the just treatment of the New Jersey Indians by this State. All claims made by them, even some of doubtful justice were settled squarely in a determination to be on the right side. In 1758 the number of Indians in the State was found to be so reduced, that at a conference with them at Easton it was decided to purchase a tract of 3000 acres at the place now known as Indian Mills, southwest of Lakehurst, for them to settle upon, and this constituted one of the first State Indian Reservations. The State assisted the Indians to move thither, and a few years later their number is said to have been less than two hundred.

In 1801 this tract, with the consent of the Indians, was sold and the proceeds given to them, enabling them to accept the invitation of their distant kinsmen at Stockbridge on Lake Oneida, New York, to "pack up your mat" and "come and eat out of our dish." Their representative, Wilted Grass, educated at Princeton College, secured for them in 1832 from the New Jersey Legislature a further sum of $2000, really as a gratuity, technically on the plea that they had never surrendered their right to hunt and fish in the state which they had left; and in an able letter of thanks addressed from his people to the Legislature

he said, "Not a drop of our blood have you spilled in battle; not an acre of our land have you taken without our consent." At this time the Indians numbered about three dozen and were living on land which they had purchased in Michigan. It would be interesting to know if there are any now alive.

During the Revolution the noteworthy event of the Pine Region was the capture of Toms River by the British. The origin of the name is not absolutely determined, but there is little question that it was derived from Captain William Tom, of New Castle, Del., who was an authority on Jersey affairs and who located Toms River in an exploring expedition about 1671, and on his return gave such glowing accounts of it that settlers soon established themselves there and named it after the man who had first brought it prominently to the notice of the whites, Another tradition derives the name from Indian Tom, whose real name is said to have been Thomas Plumba, an Indian who long lived in the vicinity. This tradition is somewhat discredited by a map of the mouth of Toms River made in 1749 which has marked on it "Barnegat Tom's Wigwam," while the name Toms River was known many years earlier.

Toms River was a very busy place during the Revolution. While it had then little communication with New York, it maintained much overland inter-

course with Freehold and Philadelphia, shipping salt lumber, fish and oysters, and forming a starting point for many of the American privateers, and the destination of their captured prizes. It was occupied by the Americans as a military post during the greater part of the war, the duties of the militia being to guard the inhabitants from the Refugees and Pine Robbers, to protect the salt works, to check the contraband trade with New York which was kept alive among some of the luke warm settlers by the high prices paid by the British, and to aid the privateers from up and down the coast who brought many prizes into Cranberry Inlet, a favorite resort. The papers of that time contain many advertisements of prizes to be sold at Toms River, and the cargoes seem to have been partly eatables, but mainly intoxicants, the latter praised as "most excellent." Cranberry Inlet, nearly opposite the mouth of Toms River, was then open and was one of the best inlets on the coast. Probably it became open about 1750 and closed again about 1812. The exact date of its opening has long been in litigation in connection with land claims, and never satisfactorily settled. It was near this inlet that Lieut. Joshua Studson, of Toms River, was shot in 1780 by the Refugee Bacon.

The Pine Robbers, as those of this region were called, or the Refugees, as the whole number were collectively styled, were a somewhat disorganized body of Tory sympathizers, who added vastly to the horrors of war in South Jersey by proceedings without even the grim sanction of war's laws. Such headquarters as they may be said to have had were about the lighthouse on Sandy Hook, which, from its proximity to New York and the ease of landing, became open to the incursion of British troops and a favorite gathering place of the lawless Refugees. Large numbers of these however, with no authority but their individual pleasure and gain, were scattered throughout the whole Pine Region, living in caves in the sides of sand hills near the margin of swamps in the most secluded situation and well concealed by brush, from which at dead of night they would sally forth to plunder, burn and murder. The inhabitants, in constant terror, were obliged to carry their muskets to the fields, and often were forced to live in the swamps themselves for safety. Probably not all of those known as Jersey Refugees were natives of the State, for the advantages of the swamps and forests for hiding and the proximity of the sea in carrying plunder to New York attracted the evil minded from other places. Excesses and outrages of every conceivable kind were perpe-

trated by these outlaws, and the patriots did all in their power for their extermination. The government offered large rewards for their destruction and they were hunted and shot like wild beasts until the close of the war when they were almost entirely wiped out, the few survivors going to Nova Scotia and to the Bahamas. Beside those killed and hung elsewhere, thirteen were hung on one gallows at Freehold.

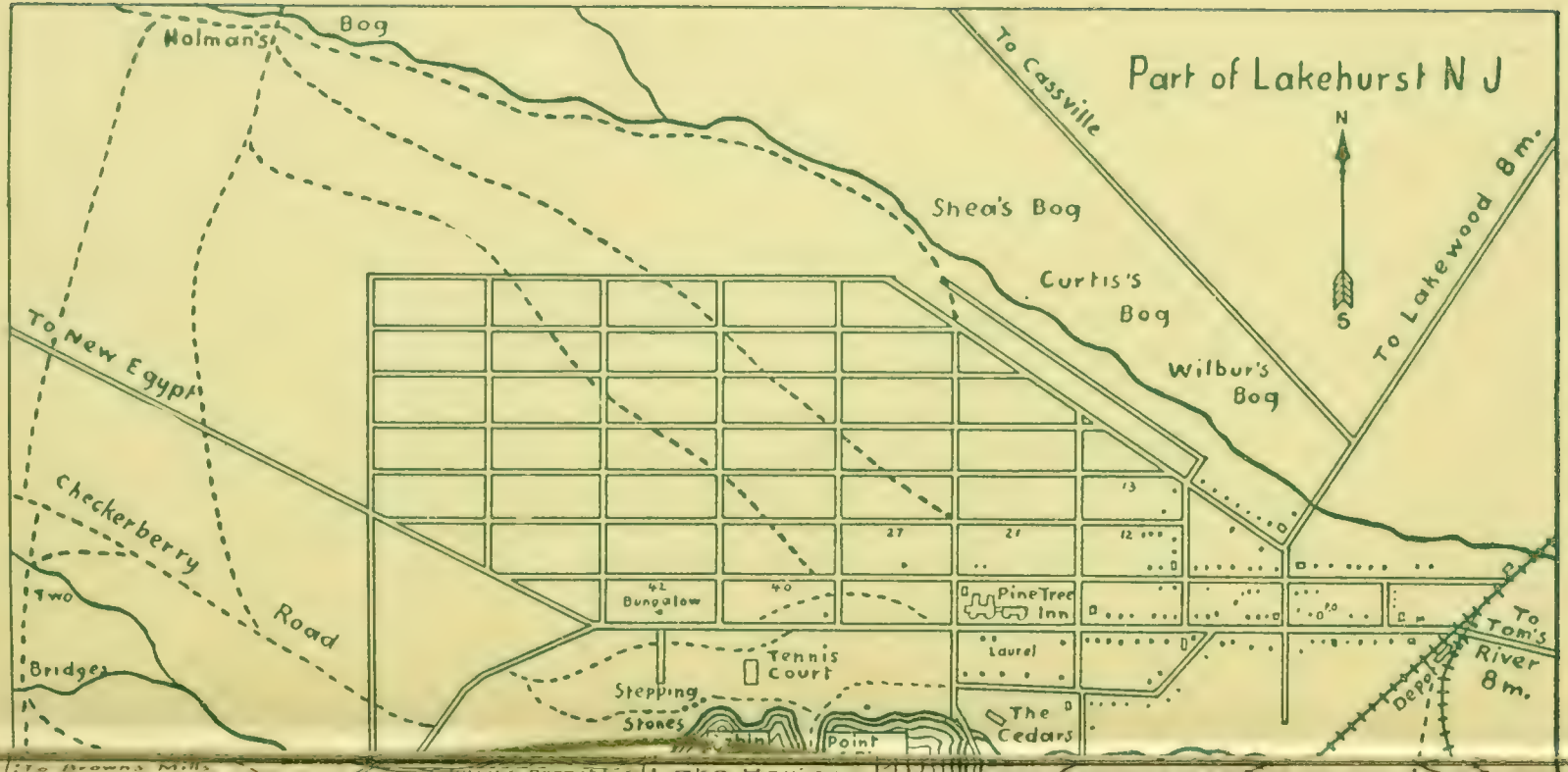
Captain John Bacon, above referred to, one of the noted leaders of the Refugees, confined his operations largely to Ocean County. His efforts were directed mainly to plundering the dwellings of all well known members of the militia. A reward of fifty pounds was offered by the government for Bacon's capture, dead or alive, and Captain John Stewart with five other men finally sought him out. They surprised him apart from his men and captured him alive near where Tuckerton now is, but shortly after he was shot and killed while attempting to escape. Other well known Refugee leaders were Lippincott and Davenport. The latter met his death in 1782. In command of a small force of adherents on two barges he plundered all within reach at Forked River after which one barge went up Barnegat Bay while Davenport

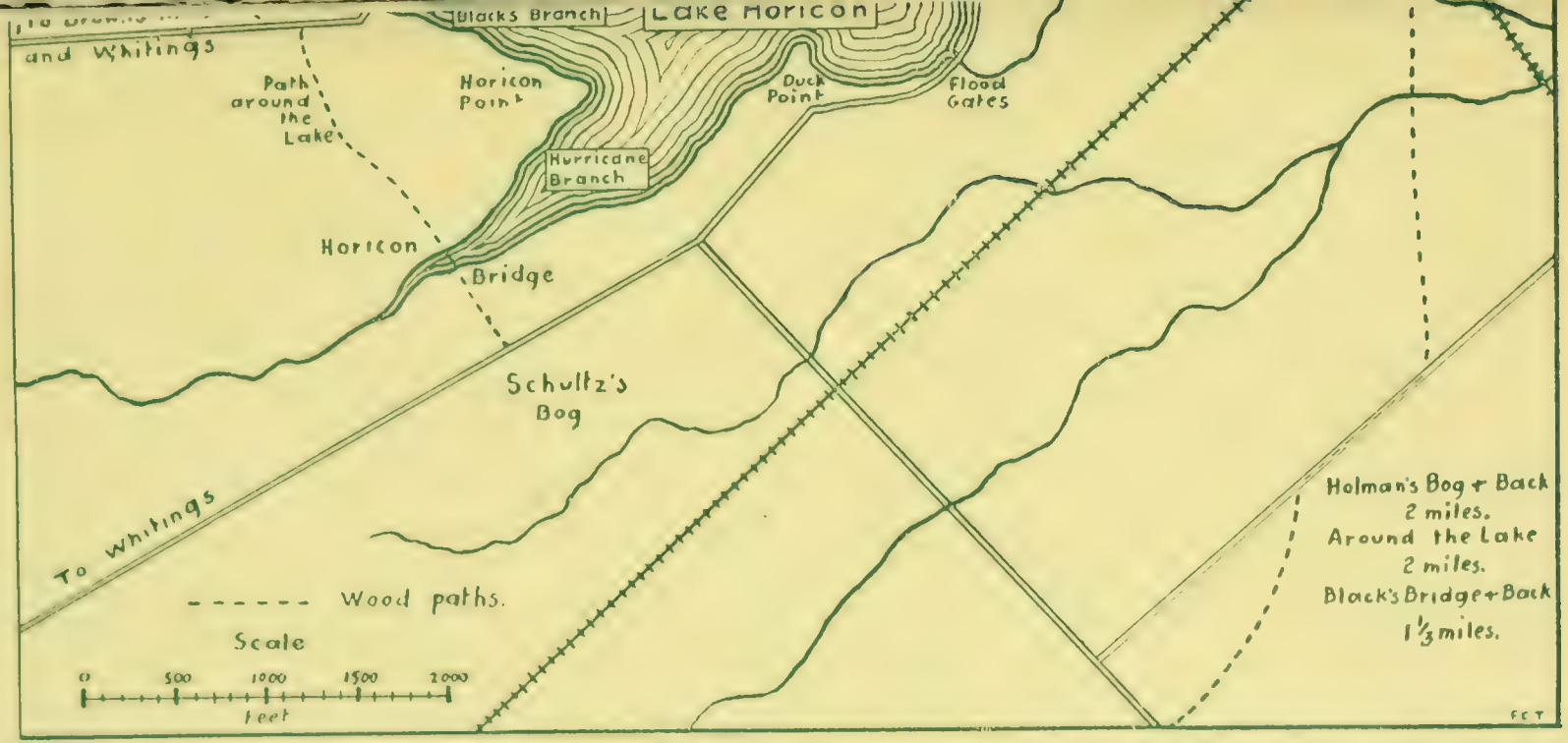
in the other proceeded further south against the salt works of the Americans near Waretown. They were met by a much smaller force of Americans, who were armed, however, with a small cannon, the discharge of which killed Davenport and scattered his followers who escaped by wading ashore.

The fort at Toms River was a rough structure with walls six feet high, situated a short distance north of the bridge. Its little company of twenty-five men in command of the noted Capt. Joshua Huddy was attacked by a company of British more than three times their number. The garrison made a stubborn resistance until their ammunition was expended when the enemy carried it by storm. The town and fort were burned, the former consisting of a saw and grist mill, fifteen or twenty houses "in which none but a piratical set of banditti resided" (British account of the affair); and of the garrison five are said to have been brutally murdered after surrender. Capt. Huddy, heavily ironed, hand and foot, and the remaining prisoners were taken to New York.

After a fortnight's enjoyment of the comforts of a British prison, Huddy and two other prisoners were taken on board a sloop and carried to Sandy Hook "to be exchanged for three Loyalists." The other two were duly exchanged but Capt. Huddy was taken ashore, made to stand upon a barrel,

POINT OF PINES


Part of Lakehurst N J
N
S
Holman's
Bog
To Cassville
To Lakewood 8m.
Shea's Bog
Curtis's Bog
Wilbur's Bog
To New Egypt
Checkerberry
Road
Two
Bridges
42
Bungalow
40
27
21
13
Pine Tree Inn
Laurel
The Cedars
Tennis Court
Stepping Stones
Point
To Tom's River 8m.
Depot


Blacks Branch
Lake Horicon
and Whitings
Path around the Lake
Horicon Point
Duck Point
Flood Gates
Hurricane Branch
Horicon
Bridge
Schultz's Bog
To Whitings
Wood paths.
Scale
0 500 1000 1500 2000
feet
Holman's Bog + Back
2 miles.
Around the Lake
2 miles.
Black's Bridge + Back
1⅓ miles.
F C T

LAKEHURST, N. J., is a village of some eight hundred population situated about eight miles south of Lakewood and the same distance from Toms River, the county seat, with each of which places it is connected by eight miles of excellent gravelled roads. Being well within the sandy pine belt, its climate is exceptionally mild, dry, and healthful, the miles of beautiful walks and bridle paths through the pine woods, a step from the cottage section, affording, with the drives and the cranberry gardens, a variety of scene and a closeness to nature unattainable elsewhere. Horicon Lake, picturesque and forest-edged, a couple of miles in circuit, affords opportunities for rowing and skating, while the board tennis court and five-hole practice golf course are in daily use throughout the winter.

Hundreds of our well-known people have acquired the "Lakehurst habit,"—the winter season beginning October first and lasting until the first of June. Lakehurst has a widely-known hotel, the Pine Tree Inn; a very successful private school, The Cedars, for girls; two resident physicians and an unusually well equipped drug store, one of Priest's Pharmacies of Princeton, Bay Head and Lakehurst, N. J., in charge of an experienced prescription chemist; electric light, sewer, and water and the same train service as Lakewood, and is about equally distant from Philadelphia and New York, an hour and thirty-six minutes from the latter by express trains on the C. R. R. of N. J.

under a scaffold of three rails by command of the Refugee leader Lippincott and launched into eternity, it is said, by a negro. A placard was attached to his breast, the gist being summed up in its concluding words, "Up goes Huddy for Phil White." Capt. Huddy endeavored in vain to prove to his executioners that he could not have been concerned in White's death as it occurred after he was a prisoner in British hands. The Refugees were determined "to hang man for man" (as Huddy's placard read) and "made use of Capt. Huddy as the first object to present itself to view" (also from the placard). Huddy made his will under the gallows and signed it upon the barrel on which he presently stood. A conference of American officers decided that retaliation should be taken by executing a British officer selected by lot from the prisoners. The choice fell upon a young and popular British officer, Captain Asgill, but nineteen years of age and of a noble family in England. Lady Asgill, his mother, exerted every effort that could be devised, including a petition to the King of France, who interceded in Asgill's behalf, and it was largely through influence of the French Court that Washington was enabled to write Capt Asgill, after seven months of suspense, "Sir: It affords me singular satisfaction to have it in

my power to transmit to you the enclosed copy of an act of Congress of the 7th inst. by which you are relieved from the disagreeable circumstances in which you have been so long." Disagreeable indeed!

Whitings was named from Nathan C. Whiting who came to Ocean County about 1852 from New Haven, to engage in the lumber business, operating a sawmill which he erected on an extensive purchase of timber land. New Egypt was formerly called Kimmon's Mills, from Cowperthwait Kimmons, who owned and operated mills there. Tradition has it that people from a distance, going there for corn, of which a large amount was sold as well as ground, jestingly spoke of "going to Egypt for corn," whence the name.

Lakewood was first known as Washington Furnace from the iron works built there in 1814. These were later bought by Joseph W. Brick and renamed Bergen Iron Works. In 1865, after the death of Mr. Brick, a charter was obtained by the Bricksburg Land and Improvement Co., and in a few years Bricksburg attained considerable size. The change of name to Lakewood and the development of its possibilities in the way of a popular winter resort was largely the work of Capt. A. M. Bradshaw about 1880, and since that time the growth and advance of the town has been exceptional.

Lakehurst was formerly named Manchester by Samuel G. Wright in 1820, after the manufacturing town of that name in England. The township of Manchester was created from that of Dover (Toms River) in 1865, which in turn was formed from the township of Shrewsbury in 1767. Lake Horicon, at Lakehurst, was called before and after the Revolution "Congasee Pond" and the settlement itself "Federal Forge," and later "Federal Furnace." The Lake in 1825 and after was called "Manchester Pond," and in 1866 the name was changed by Gen. John S. Schultze, with the approval of the Manchester Land Co., to Lake Horicon. In 1764, an old survey to D. Knott on Hurricane Branch, as one of the streams entering the lake has been called from earliest times, refers to "the edge of the place where the Hurricane wind passes through the swamp." Whatever this may mean it affords evidence of the antiquity of the name.

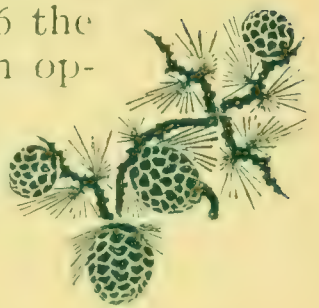
An old forge was erected prior to the Revolution on ground which investigation made some years ago seems to locate at the head of the raceway now running out from the lake back of the house that is known as The

Cedars, which was standing at that time. It is said that the forge and homestead were erected by David Wright. Mention is made in old surveys of "The old Federal House which was built for the use of David Wright's forge," and "The Federal Company's coaling house," and "David Wright's coaling ground," from 1795 to 1800. On the low ground back of the old Presbyterian Church stood an old charcoal furnace, and to this ran an artificial raceway past the house. The remains of the old furnace were on the ground as late as 1866, and parts of the hearth stones are said to be there still. Between the house and furnace there existed in 1840 ruins of an old stamp mill where the bog iron ore was broken for the furnace. The records show that the furnace back of the church was the one originally called Federal Furnace, which gave its first name to the settlement. A small iron ball, about an inch and a half in diameter, designed for some sort of firearm, has lately been dug up there and is to be seen at The Cedars. In the same hollow are lying two old mill stones, indicating the existence of a grist mill at some former time.

This old homestead became the residence of Mr. William Torrey, who in 1841 bought a tract of land of 27,500 acres, including the present Village of Lakehurst, and soon after built the old Presbyterian Church, above referred to,

which is still standing. At that time there were several houses on what is now Church Street, which was then the main road to Toms River, and a few houses in the center of the village, the most westerly of the dwellings being located in the rear of Mr. William A. Torrey's present cottage on the Lake shore. About 1863 the street system shown on the map (taken from an old one of 1865) was laid out by Mr. Torrey, and the magnificent line of elms on the main streets planted.

About 1850 a short wooden railroad was built from the neighborhood of the Lake to Toms River and used for some time with one locomotive. The route from New York was then by steamboat to South Amboy, thence by the Camden and Amboy Railroad to Hightstown, and from thence by carriage through about twenty-three miles of deep sandy road. In the plan of development the present railroad to New York via Sandy Hook was built and completed in the fall of 1862 by his son, William A. Torrey, and in 1866 the branch road from Lakehurst through Toms River to Barnegat was in operation. The car shops, established about 1860 near the present Lakehurst railway station, have ever since given employment to a large force of men and with the extensive cranberry industry and



large shipments of huckleberries, formed for many years the main occupation of the inhabitants of the village.

The building of the Pine Tree Inn and development of the property about it and the Lake were primarily due to the energy and activity of Mr. William A. Torrey, into whose hands a large part of the village tract west of the railroad came in 1895. Since that time the growth of the place has been marked and its fame extended, the change in name from Manchester to Lakehurst, in 1897, contributing to increase its popularity as a winter resort. In 1898 the Pine Tree Inn was formally opened by Mr. Albert A. LeRoy, an attractive and well appointed new Presbyterian Church was soon erected, free from indebtedness, in a convenient location near at hand through the interest of the people and the co-operation of many friends among the winter visitors, cottages were erected by Mr. Ralph H. Warren and others, and Lakehurst's present Era of Prosperity became fairly established.

FREDERIC C. TORREY.

(In this compilation acknowledgments are due to Salter's "History of Ocean County," Heston's "Absegami," Barber's "History of New Jersey" (1840), and "The New Jersey Historical Society Collections" among other authorities consulted).

THE LAKE
FROM
THE CEDARS

THE CEDARS

THE CEDARS has been selected by Mademoiselle E. Debray-Longchamp as especially adapted to a small home school for girls.

The school combines the advantages of trained individual instruction with a free, healthful, out of door life, and a well ordered home.

A resident trained nurse looks after the health of the girls, and directs their sports. All branches of study are in charge of teachers of recognized ability. French will be much used in conversation, besides daily lessons in class.

Terms, including all expenses, except music lessons, $1,200 a year.

For further information address

MISS E. DEBRAY-LONGCHAMP.

The Cedars, Lakehurst, New Jersey

Facing the Pine Tree Inn and within a stone's throw of Lake Horicon is the Laurel Cottage, fully furnished, lighted by electricity and heated by hot air furnace. Arrangements can be made for table board at the Inn if desired. The Laurel has five bedrooms, servants' room and storage attic, butler's pantry, laundry tubs and hard wood floors, and is in every respect a most comfortable winter home.

For those desiring to live more nearly within the "pine woods" the Bungalow has been built on a small pine-clad eminence within five minutes walk of the Inn and in view of the upper end of the Lake. It is fully furnished and planned especially to meet the needs of life here, with the living rooms and four bedrooms opening from it a half story higher than usual, also a servants' bedroom. The dining room, butler's pantry and kitchen are a half story lower than common. Around this cottage are sand and pines, without any attempt at lawn and shrubbery. The Bungalow is electric lighted and steam heated and has three open fireplaces. Both cottages have the best of plumbing and are connected to sewer and water. They are for sale or rental on reasonable terms, and can be seen at any time. For further particulars, please address

RALPH H. WARREN.

THE LAUREL

THE BUNGALOW

THE WINTER COTTAGE COLONY at Lakehurst is a very congenial and a growing one. Each season shows an addition to the number of cottages built or occupied and available sites are still to be secured at reasonable prices either for speculation or for immediate building. In the development of the place care has been exercised to retain as far as possible the wild and rustic character of the scenery which is so much admired and sought after, and it is but a step from the cottages to the heart of the pines. All plots sold are most rigidly restricted against all nuisance and any use for business purposes. They measure one hundred feet in breadth and vary from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty feet in depth.

Attention is called to those still unsold on the south side of block 40 (see map) and some at a little lower price on the south side of block 27. A limited number of lots and cottages close to the Inn are also in my hands for sale or rental, and correspondence is solicited regarding these and the exceptional advantages of Lakehurst for permanent residence or for investment. For particulars please address,

FREDERIC C. TORREY,
Lakehurst, N. J

REAL ESTATE

PINE TREE INN

LAKEHURST, N. J.

An Overdrawn Bank Account

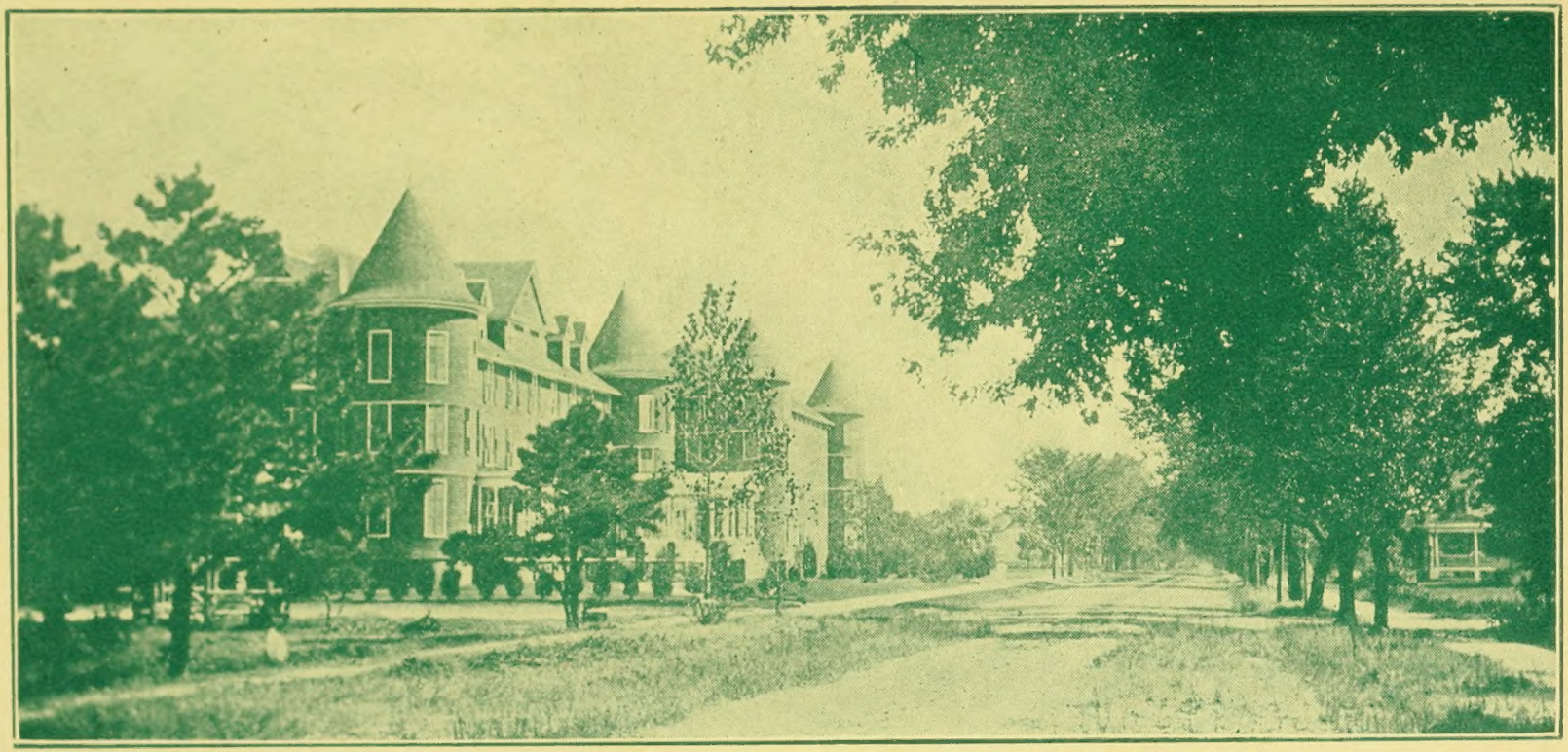
* * A man's body is as much a bank of deposit as is the institution on the corner where he enters his specie, drafts and coupons; and the two sorts of banks are subject to very much the same style of requirements and liabilities, with this difference, however, that in the case of the body, there is kept no easily accessible bookkeeping account of deposits and drafts, and the question of balance or deficit is always a little problematic

Such being the necessitous condition of overdrawn account to which so many hard-wrought lives are being reduced, it is a kindness to the public to call attention to any comfortable retreat out of town, but easily accessible, to which, when a man's credit balance is narrowing to a deficit, he can betake himself till enough has accumulated to make it safe again to go on issuing checks. I know of no place that will serve this purpose more admirably than "Pine Tree Inn," Lakehurst, New Jersey. The hotel is quiet, restful, the perfection of hospitality, and in every way delightful Having repeatedly replenished my own physical bank account here, this word of recommendation is prompted by an appreciative sense of benefits received and a desire that other tired heads and bodies may be similarly rehabilitated.

The Christian Work

C. H. PARKHURST

For rates and particulars please address the proprietor, ALBERT A. LEROY.



PINE TREE INN

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